

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/723,721

Applicant(s)

GROTEMEYER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Bernard E Souw

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Transmittal of New Application filed 11/24/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Correction of Inventor's Name

1. Applicant has filed on 04/07/2004 a Request for Correction of Filing Receipt accompanied by a Supplemental Oath and Declaration for correcting a typographical error of an inventor's name in the previous Oath and Declaration filed 11/24/2003. Such a correction of Filing Receipt is not necessary. Even a Supplemental Declaration would have been unnecessary; an Application Data Sheet would have been sufficient to correct the typographical error. MPEP § 601.05.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), (DE 102 55 017.4), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A time-of-flight mass spectrometer, comprising a monolithic reflector by which the ionized and accelerated molecules are deflected and reflected, the reflector being

Art Unit: 2881

shaped as a radially symmetric trough, as recited in claims 5 and 10, has not been anticipated or rendered obvious by any prior art.

Claim 1 is also allowed for claiming the same monolithic reflector that has been the reason for allowance in claims 5 and 10, since --although the wording "*time-of-flight mass spectrometer*" is recited only in the preamble-- such a language constitutes a structural limitation that is here to be interpreted as part of the claimed invention (MPEP § 2163.II.A.1).

Claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11-14 are also allowed because of their dependencies, either directly or indirectly, upon claim 1, 5 or 10.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communications

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard E Souw whose telephone number is 571-272-2482. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm..

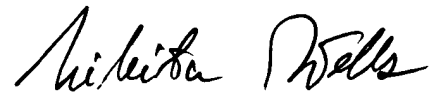
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R Lee can be reached on 571 272 2477. The central fax phone

Art Unit: 2881

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular communications as well as for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.

bes
August 06, 2004



NIKITA WELLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

08/09/04